

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY P;JJSISCO:SBA

APPROVED BY P;JJSISCO

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S/S- MR. SPRINGSTEEN

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Z 231845Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 017566 TOSEC 010196

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: UNSC MIDOLE EAST DEBATE

(S/S 7601451)

1. MOYNIHAN HAS JUST CALLED AND HAS SAID THAT HE THINKS THERE IS A 1 IN 3 CHANCE THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION WITHOUT A VOTE. I SAID TO HIM I THOUGHT A POSTPONEMENT WAS A GOOD IDEA ALTHOUGH AS WE KNOW THE ISRAELIS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATION ABOUT IT. I SAID I WANTED TO REFLECT AND PERHAPS TOUCH BASE WITH YOU. IN DOING SO, I SAID TO MOYNIHAN I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO REFLECT MOYNIHAN'S VIEWS ACCURATELY TO THE SECRETARY. DO YOU PERSONALLY FAVOR POSTPONEMENT? MOYNIHAN'S ANSWER WAS YES. SECONDLY: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE OF GETTING IT? HIS ANSWER WAS 1 IN 3. THIRDLY, I SAID IT WAS ONE THING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO A MOVE ON POSTPONEMENT; IT IS ANOTHER THING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE LEAD. MOYNIHAN RESPONDED THAT PERHAPS

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HE MIGHT QUIETLY SUGGEST TO THE BRITISH THAT THEY AND

THE EGYPTIANS TAKE THE LEAD AND THAT WE WOULD THEN
SUPPORT THEIR INITIATIVE. I CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION
BY SAYING I WANTED TO REFLECT ON THIS MATTER.

2. I RECOMMEND, AND WOULD LIKE YOUR APPROVAL, TELLING

MOYNIHAN IMMEDIATELY THAT HE SHOULD GO AHEAD ON THE
ABOVE BASIS. I PERSONALLY DO NOT FEEL THE ISRAELI
ARGUMENT HAS MUCH SUBSTANCE TO IT AND THAT THEY CAN
DO VERY MUCH WITH IT. IF RABIN COMES TO WASHINGTON
AND USES A POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SC DEBATE IN THE FUTURE
AS REASON NOT TO MOVE AHEAD DIPLOMATICALLY, WE SHOULD
NOT ACCEPT THIS VIEW. THE OVERRIDING ARGUMENT WE
HAVE IS THAT AVOIDING A VOTE NOW COULD PREVENT THE
SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON THAT
COULD RESULT FROM A U.S. VETO. I WOULD ALSO TELL
MOYNIHAN THAT HE OUGHT TO WORK FOR A SINE DIE POSTPONE-
MENT IF POSSIBLE, OTHERWISE POSTPONEMENT TO MARCH OR
APRIL. MOREOVER, WE SHOULD STAY IN THE BACKGROUND
AND LOW KEY IN OUR SUPPORT, NOT IN A LEAD ROLE --
THIS WOULD BE FOR UK IF THEY ARE WILLING.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE MY TALKING TO
MOYNIHAN ALONG THE LINES INDICATED.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

SISCO

SECRET

NNN

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